

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/734,399

Examiner

Suchin Parihar

Applicant(s)

SHENOY ET AL.

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3/16/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-17,19-27 and 29-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date same as OA.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JACK CHIANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Shun Yao (Reg.# 59,242) on Monday 6/11/2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims

In claim 1:

line 8, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- wherein a pin is specified- -;

line 10, replace "wherein a pin may be associated" with

- wherein a pin is associated- -;

line 11, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- wherein a pin is specified- -.

In claim 11:

line 10, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- wherein a pin is specified- -;

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line 12, replace "wherein a pin may be associated" with

- -wherein a pin is associated- -;

line 13, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- -wherein a pin is specified- -.

In claim 21:

line 10, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- -wherein a pin is specified- -;

line 12, replace "wherein a pin may be associated" with

- -wherein a pin is associated- -;

line 13, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- -wherein a pin is specified- -.

In claim 31:

line 9, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- -wherein a pin is specified- -;

line 11, replace "wherein a pin may be associated" with

- -wherein a pin is associated- -;

line 12, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- -wherein a pin is specified- -.

In claim 32:

line 10, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- -wherein a pin is specified- -;

line 12, replace "wherein a pin may be associated" with

- -wherein a pin is associated- -;

line 13, replace "wherein a pin may be specified" with

- -wherein a pin is specified- -.

(Amendment was made in order to place this application into a condition for allowance)

Reasons For Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27 and 29-32 are allowed because the prior art made of record does not teach or suggest a method/computer-medium/apparatus/circuit/mask for designing an integrated circuit using a mask-programmable fabric which contains both mask-programmable logic and mask-programmable interconnect, in the manner as recited in the claims.

4. With respect to claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27 and 29-32 the prior art fails to teach the combination of steps in claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32 including the following particular steps as recited in claim 1 and similarly in claims 11, 21, 31 and 32:

wherein the description of the mask-programmable cell defines one or more pins;
wherein a pin may be specified as being tied to, power, ground, a route segment or another pin;
wherein a pin may be associated with a logic function;
wherein a pin may be specified as part of a sequential element;
converting the preliminary netlist into a netlist that contains references to the mask-programmable cell.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suchin Parihar whose telephone number is 571-272-6210. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

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Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Suchin Parihar
Examiner
AU 2825



JACK CHIANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER